

Kuhn, Tanzania; Abigail M. Lafrenz, Bulgaria; Bridget M. Leddy, Kyrgyzstan; Frank E. Lester, Kenya; Kyle B. Lopez, Bolivia; Alissa P. Mayer, Dominican Republic; Sydney F. McCall, Bolivia; Julia A. Montgomery, Vanuatu; Morgan C. Montgomery, Honduras; Travis W. Pittman, Ghana; Jacob E. Rich, Peru; Richard C. Rystrom, Ukraine; Jessica F. Souza, Cape Verde; Katherine L. Theiss-Nyland, Malawi; Kyla H. Wall-Polin, Bulgaria.

Madam Speaker, the 47th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps is an achievement that we should all commemorate. I rise today to celebrate the leadership and accomplishments of these compassionate men and women who have committed themselves to promoting global peace, diplomacy, and understanding.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL  
CHARLES C. CURTZE

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Rear Admiral Charles Curtze. Born and raised in Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District, Admiral Curtze brought his dedication to service and caring personality to the Erie community.

A 1933 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Curtze excelled in gymnastics and led the midshipmen to the league championship. He qualified for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, but due to his position in the U.S. Navy and growing security concerns regarding Adolf Hitler, the State Department prohibited his attendance. After graduating from the Naval Academy, Admiral Curtze earned a master's degree in naval construction from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

One of the most extraordinary accomplishments of his career was his role in saving the only major ship to survive the attack on Pearl Harbor. By guiding the USS St. Louis to safety, the ship was able to successfully put out to sea and became the stalwart of the new Pacific fleet during World War II.

During the infancy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Admiral Curtze served as the engineering member of the first U.S. team in London. He later became commander of the San Francisco Naval Shipyard and ultimately deputy chief of the Bureau of Ships in Washington, DC before retiring as a rear admiral in 1965 and returning to Erie.

His passion for sailing began at the early age of 14 when he bought his first sailboat, joined the Erie Yacht Club and began racing. After retiring from his military career, he used his naval architecture skills to design and commission his own yacht, Thule, in 1970 which he sailed until his 90th year.

Admiral Curtze was known as a very generous individual who contributed to several local causes, most notably the Asbury Woods Project. He was an 80-year member of the Erie Yacht Club and a life member of the Erie Historical Society.

The life of Charles Curtze serves as a role model for us all to follow. He embodied the word service in its finest sense through his

kindness, hard work and generosity and will greatly be missed by all.

I hope my colleagues will join me in commemorating the life of Charles Curtze.

HONORING JORDAN MICHAEL  
RAISHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Michael Raisher, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jordan Michael Raisher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL ALBERT  
BITTON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to CPL Albert Bitton, who was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Iraq on February 20, 2008. Corporal Bitton joined the Army in December 2005 and bravely served as a medic in Iraq, where he had been stationed since October.

Corporal Bitton, who grew up in West Rogers Park, was part of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. He joined the Army to serve his country and to prepare himself to become a surgeon. Corporal Bitton was justifiably proud of his Army service. His friends report that he wore his uniform everywhere when he returned to Chicago on leave—even to the bowling alley and park.

Corporal Bitton graduated in 2005 from Ida Crown Jewish Academy, where he was on the school wrestling team and enjoyed painting, drawing, and video games. His friends remember him as a scrawny tough kid with artistic talent. His classmates recall his sweet nature and how genuinely nice he was to everyone.

Friends from as far away as Israel and Alaska have sent condolences to Bitton's wife, Melissa Handelman, his parents, Elie and Sylvia, and his sisters, Jackie and Elizabeth. Last Wednesday night in New York, about 40 people who knew Bitton gathered at Yeshiva University for an impromptu memorial. The outpouring of emotion from those touched by Corporal Bitton's death is a testament to the lasting impression this exceptional young man left on those he met throughout his life.

I offer my deepest sympathies to Melissa Handelman, Corporal Bitton's wife; his par-

ents, Elie and Sylvia; and his sisters, Elizabeth and Jackie.

HONORING JENNIFER JOY WILSON'S SELECTION AS AGGREGATES MANAGER OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable American, a woman who has previously served this Nation and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia with honor and distinction—Jennifer Joy Wilson, who has worked at the White House Office of Communications for President Gerald Ford, as Assistant Administrator for External Affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency, as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as staff policy liaison and senior executive assistant for Virginia Governor John Dalton, and as legislative director and executive assistant for U.S. Senator JOHN WARNER.

For the past decade, Ms. Wilson has served first as the head of the National Stone Association, and then, after the merger of two similar groups, as the president and CEO of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, NSSGA. NSSGA is the world's largest mining association by product volume. Its member companies represent more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel produced annually in the United States and approximately 118,000 working men and women in the aggregates industry. During 2006, a total of about 2.95 billion metric tons of crushed stone, sand and gravel, valued at \$21 billion, was produced and sold in the United States.

This year, Ms. Wilson has been given the distinguished honor of being selected as AggMan of the Year by Aggregates Manager magazine, one of the construction aggregates industry's leading trade publications.

During her tenure, the NSSGA led an effort to improve employee safety in the aggregate industry by developing new safety procedures, called Part 46, for the U.S. Mine Safety & Health Administration, MSHA. The joint industry-labor effort produced a proposal "that would apply better to our industry and provide managers and workers with effective means to prevent accidents and fatalities." By all accounts, Part 46 has shown remarkable success in reducing employee injuries.

On February 11, 2003, an alliance between NSSGA and MSHA was announced. Signed at the NSSGA's centennial convention in Orlando, Florida, the agreement calls for the two organizations to work closely together on the promotion of safe working conditions, the development of effective miner training programs, and the expansion of mine safety and health outreach and communication. "For the first time ever, MSHA and an industry association have jointly agreed to adopt safety and health performance goals with objective measures," then MSHA Administrator Dave Lauriski said during that meeting. "This alone is unprecedented . . . NSSGA is again showing its leadership."

On the environmental front, Ms. Wilson led the industry in investing in a study "righting an